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HEALTH
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BLACKBURN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
for 1954.

R. C. WEBSTER.
Medical Officer of Health.

G. R. WHITE.
Senior Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Food Inspector.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1954.

Chairman of the Council:

H. RYDEN, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

D. SMITH, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee:

W. H. WIDDERS, Esq.

Councillors.

Parish.	Councillor.
Balderstone	J. WRIGHT, Esq.
Billington	J. HARGREAVES, Esq. W. SYKES, Esq.
Clayton-le-Dale	J. AINSWORTH, Esq.
Dinckley	J. W. BREWER, Esq.
Eccleshill	D. SMITH, Esq., J.P.
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Ramsgreave	G. HAWORTH, Esq., J.P.
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Tockholes	J. CROSS, Esq.
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Yate & Pickup Bank	J. YATES, Esq., J.P.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

Meat and Food Inspector:

G. R. WHITE, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

42, Wellington Street, (St.John's),

Blackburn.

October, 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1954.

There has been nothing during the year that calls for special comment other than those made in the body of the Report.

I wish to express my thanks to the Clerk of the Council and to Mr. White, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for their friendly co-operation throughout the year and to yourself, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Committee, my thanks for the interest and consideration you have at all times shown.

Yours faithfully,

R. C. WEBSTER.

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,469
Rateable Value (31st March, 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£86,621
Estimated Product of ld. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£345
Population, Census 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,245
Resident Population, mid-1954 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,480
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.7

Blackburn Rural District lies to the North, West and South of the County Borough of Blackburn and its population of 13,480 live in two different types of community. The large Parishes adjacent to Blackburn are urban in character, although each still retains its separate community life. The rest of the area is dotted with small villages truly rural in type. Most of the area lies in the Ribble Valley and is given over to pasture and meadow-land.

In the immediate pre-war years there was a growing tendency for town dwellers to move into rural areas, e.g. the Parish of Wilpshire, which is wholly residential, increased its population by 20% during the years 1931/1951. The Council has developed Housing Estates in Parishes where industrial employment is available and as an example, the population of the Parish of Livesey has been increased by 20%. The easing of restrictions on building licences, during 1953, has already started much private development in the area.

The Census figures of 1951 reveal that, during the years 1931-1951, there was a noticeable reduction in the population of those Parishes which are sparsely populated and wholly agricultural, e.g. Balderstone 19%, Tockholes 13% and Yate and Pickup Bank 37%. Much of the property in each of these three Parishes is very substandard.

The Ordnance Datum varies from 150 to 1,050.

Vital Statistics.

There were 137 live births and 1 still birth registered during 1954 and 173 deaths from all causes. The birthrate decreased from 12.2 to 10.7 per thousand population (England and Wales 15.2) The deathrate increased from 12.4 to 13.6 per thousand population (England and Wales 11.3). The low birthrate and the slightly above average deathrate, is explained by the fact that much of the population is made up of retired persons and that there are two Hospitals in the area, one for mental defectives and one for epileptics, accommodating over 2,000 patients.

The main causes of death were heart disease, cancer and vascular disease of the nervous system.

Infectious Disease.

There were 128 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, the largest numbers were of Measles (70) Scarlet Fever (20) and Whooping Cough (18).

Scarlet Fever.

13 out of 20 cases were of children attending school, all cases were mild in type and there were no deaths.

Tuberculosis.

There were 11 new cases notified in 1954 compared with 13 in 1953, 7 of these were pulmonary in type (2 females and 5 males). There were 2 deaths in 1954 compared with 4 in 1953. At the end of December there were 53 cases on the register, the same figure as for 1953.

Housing.

264 houses have been erected by the Council since the end of the war and at the close of the year, 29 houses were still in course of erection. An examination of the applications for Council houses reveals that the housing programme has caught up with most priority cases and the following figures give the numbers on the waiting list:-

90	applicants either live in the area or are employed at factories in the area.
30	applicants work at an Aerodrome in the area and are housed in neighbouring towns.
41	applicants for aged persons bungalows, all being resident in the District.
161	Total

Water Supplies.

Mr. White points out that 81% of the houses in the District have supplies from public mains and having regard to the special difficulties of a rural area with some isolated houses, this is a satisfactory over-all picture. But there are areas and there are houses, for which the position is unsatisfactory. Especially to be noted are the Parish of Tockholes and the temporary or semi-permanent structures on Haggs Hall Fields. There are other individual houses or small groups of houses also without mains supplies, but the natural difficulties are very great. It must be admitted that our infectious diseases records show no serious results, but the possibilities are dangerous enough. At the same time, one cannot see that it is practicable to bring mains supplies, at any reasonable cost, to some of these places. For some of them a piped supply is as impracticable as it would be in a desert or on a mountain top and really the difficulty is in the "nature of things".

Medical Examination.

During the year 5 employees were examined as to fitness to enter the Council's Superannuation Scheme.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action has been taken by the Council under Section 47 of this Act.

Local Health Services.

The Public Health Services provided by the Lancashire County Council are controlled locally by Divisional Health Committees composed of local representatives. Blackburn Rural District lies in Health Division No. 5 and the office of the Medical Officer of Health is undertaken together with that of Divisional Medical Officer, who operates both the County Council's Public Health and School Medical Services.

The Nursing Staff includes Health Visitors, School Nurses, Midwives and District Nurses.

The services operated by No. 5 Divisional Health Committee include:- Ambulances, Clinics (Ante-Natal and Child Welfare), School (Minor Ailment) Clinics, Dental Clinics, Orthopaedic Clinics, Ophthalmic Clinics, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics, U.V.R. (Artificial Sunlight) Clinics, Immunisation Clinics and Child Guidance Clinics.

The provision of clinics for a rural area presents special difficulties. In areas with scattered populations there obviously are problems in providing a full service.

Ambulance Service. This service is provided without charge and generally a Doctor's certificate is necessary (except in cases of emergency). The District is covered by ambulances from either Blackburn (Blackburn 44130), Darwen (Darwen 48 or 694) and Great Harwood (Great Harwood 3294).

Ante-Natal Clinics. There are no clinics held in the Blackburn Rural District, although advice can be obtained from the Doctor attending the Child Welfare Clinics at Feniscowles, Whalley and Darwen. Clinics held at Darwen and Rishton may be convenient for some residents of the Rural District.

Darwen (Civic Health Centre, Union Street)	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and Wednesday afternoons (2 p.m.).
Rishton (108, High Street)	Wednesday mornings (9 a.m.).

Child Welfare Clinics. Where mothers may attend with their children for medical examination and for the purchases of infant welfare foods, are held as follows:-

Feniscowles (Mission Hall)	Tuesday afternoons (2 p.m.).
Whalley (Methodist School)	Monday afternoons (2 p.m.).
Darwen (Civic Health Centre, Union Street)	Monday and Thursday afternoons (2 p.m.).

Services for Children of School Age.

Minor Ailment Clinics.

County Council Clinic, Lord Street, Blackburn	1st Wednesday each month (2 p.m.).
School Clinic, 108, High Street, Rishton	Monday and Friday mornings.
Civic Health Centre, Union Street, Darwen	Monday to Friday mornings and afternoons.

Dental Clinics.

County Council Clinic, Lord Street, Blackburn	1st Tuesday each month mornings and afternoons.
County Council Clinic, 108, High Street, Rishton	Appointments-Great Harwood 3177.

Immunisation.

Immunisations are carried out at the Child Welfare or Minor Ailment Clinics. They can also be undertaken by the family Doctor.

Specialist Treatment.

Facilities are available for Specialist examination and treatment of children suffering from eye defects, diseases of ear, nose and throat, orthopaedic defects, for treatment by artificial sunlight or child guidance. Children are first seen at Child Welfare or Minor Ailment Clinics or at School Medical Inspections and the appropriate arrangements are made.

Midwives.

The Midwives serving the area are as follows:-

Miss F. I. Grundy, District Nurses Home, Branch Road, Mellor	Mellor 313.
Miss M. I Lytle, 19, Calder Avenue, Billington	Whalley 3113.
District Nurses Home, 56/62, Bolton Road, Darwen	Darwen 151.

Home Nursing.

The services of the District Nurses are available on the family Doctor's recommendation. Nursing requisites are available free on loan from any of the District Nurses.

Miss E. Blundell of 10, Jersey Street, Livesey (Blackburn 49415) covers the Parish of Livesey.

The Midwives from Darwen, Mellor and Billington cover the rest of the area.

Home Helps. This service is provided in case of sickness or infirmity and arrangements are made with the Home Help Supervisor at the Divisional Health Office. This is not a free service but charges are made according to the circumstances of the applicant.

Hostels for Elderly People. Elderly persons who are in need of care and attention, within the meaning of the National Assistance Act, can be provided with residential accommodation, at a charge not exceeding 80/6d. per week, the actual charge being based on the applicant's circumstances. Steps are being taken to provide for accommodation. Application should be made to the Divisional Health Office.

Blind Persons Act. Those who wish to apply for Blind Pensions can secure a specialist examination.

Mental Health. The Division has two Duly Authorised Officers and a woman Mental Health worker who make arrangements for the removal of persons suffering from mental illness, to suitable Hospitals. Arrangements are made through the patient's own Doctor.

Hospital Service. The County Council has NO control over Hospitals, these are administered by the Regional Hospital Board. In the case of admission to Maternity Hospitals and Homes, the demand is so great that as a rule only those having their first baby or those who have unsuitable home circumstances or some medical reason making Hospital delivery essential are accepted. The Hospital Authorities request the Divisional Medical Officer for a report on these points and on this report the Hospital Authority agrees to accept or decline to book an expectant mother. The Divisional Medical Officer is informed as to the facts by the Health Visitors and Midwives, and from his knowledge of the medical facts, whether from his own or his assistants' examination at Ante-Natal Clinics, or reports received from the patients' own Doctor.

Much confusion exists as to Hospital accommodation for chronic cases of illness often in elderly people. The County Council has NO control over such admission; this is governed by the Regional Hospital Board. It has been arranged that with the aid of a report from a Health Visitor, the Divisional Medical Officer will advise the Hospital Authority as to the urgency in cases of chronic sickness.

Vital Statistics for the Year 1954.

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births - Legitimate	134	71	63
Illegitimate	3	2	1
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Total	137	73	64

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CAUSES OF DEATH.

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Causes</u>	87	86	173
1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
2. Other Tuberculosis diseases	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	1	-	1
9. Other infective diseases	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	3	5
11. " " lung	1	2	3
12. " " breast	-	4	4
13. " " uterus	-	-	-
14. " " others	7	5	12
15. Leukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	-	1
17. Lesions of nervous system	6	13	19
18. Coronary disease, Angina	20	4	24
19. Hypertension with Heart disease	1	4	5
20. Other Heart diseases	3	18	21
21. Other circulatory diseases	7	3	10
22. Influenza	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	6	2	8
24. Bronchitis	7	2	9
25. Other respiratory diseases	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	4	4
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other diseases	16	15	31
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
34. All other accidents	-	2	2
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide	-	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Age unknown
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	20	-	-	5	10	3	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	70	1	11	15	29	13	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	18	2	1	2	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	17	1	-	1	2	-	3	2	3	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	128	4	12	23	55	17	6	2	3	4	2

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1954.

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 -	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
Totals	5	2	2	2	1	1	0	0
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	7		4		2		0	

No cases of Tuberculosis which had not been notified, came to light.

New Housing.

Local Authority Houses.

Position at 1st January, 1954

Pre-war - 80

Post-war - 264

Post-war Housing Programme, Total Proposed Houses 337

Houses erected by Local Authority during 1954 66

Houses under construction by Local Authority at end of 1954 29

Houses erected by private enterprise

Post-war to January, 1954 63

Completed during 1954 29

42, Wellington Street, (St. John's),

Blackburn.

October, 1955.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixth Annual Report, which covers the work of the Health Department for the year 1954.

The coming into force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, did not produce any marked improvement in housing conditions. Landlords were empowered to increase rents and tenants permitted to challenge increases. It is doubtful whether many rents were increased in this area and only two tenants applied for 'Certificates of Disrepair'. Property owners did not, during 1954, take advantage of improved grant aid to recondition those sub-standard houses which are 'rapidly falling into decay'.

The heavy and continuous rainfall during the year had a marked effect on labour and hygienic conditions. Little ice-cream was sold, resulting in ice-cream being kept in conservators for long periods; the way-side cafes, of which there are many, did little trade and coupled with shortage of labour, standards of hygiene fell; Public Cleansing services were threatened owing to frequent labour changes and it was not possible to give full attention to Rodent Control.

The figures presented in this Report may seem impressive, but they do not give a picture of the work involved and the frustrations incurred in trying to improve conditions of hygiene and abate nuisances in the area. However, one notable improvement during the year, was the willingness of the larger employers of labour, to spend money on factory improvements, particularly sanitation and smoke prevention.

May I once again thank the Officials and Staff for their help during the year, the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued encouragement and counsel.

Yours faithfully,

G. R. WHITE.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Four-fifths of the properties in the area are connected to a public mains supply and every Parish with one exception - Tockholes, is provided for. 70% of the cottages at Tockholes are beyond repair or improvement at reasonable cost and the Parish is so undulating and sparsely populated, that the cost of providing a public mains supply would be prohibitive. There are a number of small localities where cost prohibits a mains supply i.e. Clayton-le-Dale (Showley Road-12 houses), Pleasington (Woodcock Hill-25 houses), Livesey (Black Bull area-41 houses), Ramsgreave (Haggs Hall Fields-12 houses) and Pickup Bank (53 houses). In the case of Haggs Hall Fields, Ramsgreave, most of the properties are wooden huts and should be condemned for living purposes in the near future. With regard to other localities, whilst the cost of laying mains may be prohibitive, the water rate charges are very low compared with gas and electricity charges - all the houses referred to above (excepting Haggs Hall Fields), have electricity installed and some have gas mains. Electricity was, at one time, a Local Authority service without cost to the rates, yet the provision of water mains remains a charge on the Local Authority with a small rate charge on the user for water supplied.

Routine sampling of water from public mains is carried out and occasional checks are made of wells supplying private dwellings. During the year 7 samples from Public mains were submitted for bacteriological analysis, all of which were satisfactory. 5 samples of water from private supplies were submitted for bacteriological analysis and of these 3 were found to be unsatisfactory. In these cases, owners were asked to provide piped supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are seven separate Sewage Disposal works in the area serving the major parts of the Parishes of Livesey, Billington, Pleasington and Wilpshire and parts of Salesbury, Clayton-le-Dale, Eccleshill and Balderstone. Langho Colony is also served by these works. The method of treatment adopted is by preliminary sedimentation, septic tanks and sprinkler filtration, or by land irrigation.

A comprehensive scheme for extensions and new Sewage Disposal works, was prepared by the Council's Consultant Engineer in 1947 and was approved in principle by the Council. Some of these proposals have already been carried out and others are awaiting approval by the Ministry.

Billington etc. Sewerage Scheme.

The sewers and 3 Sewage works which serve the Parishes of Billington and Wilpshire are considerably overloaded. A combined scheme for the re-sewering of this area and for the sewerage of the Parishes of Clayton-le-Dale and Salesbury, has been prepared. The scheme provides for the abandonment of the 3 Sewage works and the construction of a new works. When this scheme was submitted to the Ministry in 1949, the estimated cost was £66,800. Owing to a ban on National Expenditure the Ministry have been unable to sanction the scheme and since it was first submitted, the estimated cost has increased by £35,200.

Mellor Sewerage Scheme.

Stage 1 of the Council's re-sewering scheme was completed during the year and the bulk of the Mellor sewage is now satisfactorily treated.

Stage 2 (estimated cost £18,550) of the Mellor re-sewering scheme, provides for low level sewers, a pumping station and rising main to serve the Mellor Brook area. This part of the scheme has been deferred for the time being, on account of Government policy restricting Capital Expenditure.

Eccleshill Sewerage Scheme.

Stage 2 of the Council's re-sewering scheme was completed in 1954. This provided for the sewerage of a Council Housing Estate of 50 houses, together with other property in the vicinity. Stage 1 of the scheme, provided for the abandonment of the Eccleshill Disposal works (land irrigation), the provision of a pump house and rising main, so as to discharge all sewage to the works of the Darwen Corporation. This work was completed during 1955.

Public Cleansing Service.

Much improvement in Public Cleansing has been made in this area during the post-war years and it is hoped that this progressive policy will continue. The changes that have taken place, from the conversion of privy middens and pail closets, scavenging of Parishes by local farmers using horse drawn carts and giving infrequent collections, have resulted in a more frequent and hygienic Service, which the Public at large enjoy to-day.

It has become a Service from which one receives more regular attention than any other, inspite of adverse conditions of weather. The Cleansing Department is equipped with 3 modern refuse vehicles designed for municipal work and the baling of paper is electrically operated. The workmen are provided with 3 sets of protective overalls each year.

During 1954 there was a further improvement in wages, but owing to constant wet weather there were many changes in staff. This had a serious affect on the regularity of the collections, but the few remaining established Servants kept the Service going. On one occasion, one wagon went out with the Driver and Foreman.

The low status of the Cleansing Service in the eyes of the layman is, of course, the first big deterrent to attracting workers, again the collection of refuse is hard and uncongenial work, necessitating employment of men of good physique.

Refuse Collection.

The Council have 2 Dennis, side loading refuse wagons, the oldest being purchased in 1948 and the work of the Department is assisted by a Ford Thames 2/3 tons truck. All wagons are worked to capacity.

In November 1952, the Council instituted a weekly collection of refuse in all the most populated parts of the area, in lieu of a fortnightly collection. The change was made without the employment of additional men or vehicles and resulted in reduced mileage.

7 contracts with private collectors, involving 135 houses, are still in operation in scattered localities. In all these cases, roads are so bad that they are only traversable by farm tractors.

Refuse Disposal.

For a number of years refuse was disposed of by crude dumping in several disused quarries, all of which became infested by insects and rats. There are now only 2 refuse dumps in use and a system of controlled tipping is in operation. Occasionally, farmers are assisted by the in-filling of pits and levelling of land. Obtaining covering materials for tips, continues to be a source of worry and the hand loading of soil and ashes is slow and hard work. Soil in sufficient quantities is, at times, almost unobtainable and as a substitute for soil, it is necessary to collect clinkers from factory furnaces in the area.

The composition of house refuse in the last year or two has somewhat changed, due to the fixing of slow combustion fires. The residue from the grates of 'all night' burning fires, is put into the dustbin red hot and is a potential fire hazard on refuse tips.

Nightsoil Collection and Disposal.

Collection of nightsoil is carried out weekly from 570 houses scattered throughout the whole of the District. During the year the Council purchased a Dennis Cesspool Emptier with Nightsoil attachment and the nightsoil is now treated at the Council's Sewage works. Towards the end of the year, it was 'touch and go' whether the Service would break down, because it was not possible to obtain labour to assist the Driver in this work.

For many years the Council have made grants towards pail closet conversions, so as to reduce the number to be emptied by the Cleansing Department. During 1953 it was decided to increase this payment, so as to compare with present day costs. The grant is now half the cost of the conversion with a maximum payment of £15.

Emptying of Cesspools.

There are several hundred cesspools and septic tanks in the area and few, if any, receive regular attention by householders. It was made possible for the Council to empty a few cesspools during 1954, by the purchase of a machine for nightsoil collection. The Council do not, however, undertake this work free of charge. It is hoped that householders will now take advantage of this Service. All the cesspools emptied during 1954, were practically full of solids and no liquefaction was taking place - coke filters were found to be water-logged and covered in vegetation.

Salvaged Materials.

267 tons of salvage were collected and sold during the year, inspite of labour difficulties (an increase of 26 tons over last year). This is equal to more than 1 ton of salvage for each working day - quite an achievement when one considers that of the men employed in the Cleansing Department, only eight men are actually concerned in the collection of house refuse.

The value of salvaged materials remained static during the year, but with the increased tonnage there was an increase of £312 revenue. (Total revenue for the year £1,821). Waste Paper is the principal material salvaged by Local Authorities and a total of 116 tons was collected. This shows an increase of only 1 ton over 1953, but the weight collected is, unfortunately, governed by the space available on the wagons. 91 tons of scrap iron and 53 tons of kitchen waste were also sold.

There are 80 communal street bins in various parts of the District for the collection of kitchen waste. It is an easy and economical means of bulk collection and it has one good feature, in that it reduces the amount of putrescible matter in the dustbins and on the tips. The bins are, however, far too prominent in the Public eye to escape severe criticism and are not very hygienic.

Provision of Dustbins.

The efficiency of a Refuse Collection Service depends, to a large extent, on the type of dustbin provided. It is quite common to see, on the Public Highway, a collection of almost every conceivable receptacle which could be used for the storage of refuse. True, the Local Authority may by Statutory Notice require the provision of a proper galvanized receptacle, by either the tenant or the owner of the property - it is, however, within their power to supply to every house, as a direct charge on the rates, a satisfactory container of whatever size they may wish to have. This scheme could be provided at a cost of little more than a penny rate and would give a more hygienic and easier Service to operate.

The Council do purchase galvanized dustbins of a heavy pattern for resale to owners and householders in the area.

Rodent Control.

A Rodent Operative is employed in the search for rats and the treatment of infestations found. In order to encourage the notification of rat infestation by owners or occupiers of private dwellings, the Council provide a free Service and the Ministry of Agriculture reimburse 50% of the cost. A charge covering the whole of the cost plus 20% for administrative purposes was made for the work done on business premises. The Ministry of Agriculture contributes a 50% grant towards the cost of sewer treatment.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture a survey was made of most of the farms in the area, in 1953. In few instances were there any serious infestations and the farmers were approached by the County Agricultural Committee with a view to arrangements being made for treatment.

Test baiting of sewers was carried out on instructions from the Ministry of Agriculture. This involves test baiting only 10% of the manholes in the area, compared with a treatment of all manholes as previously undertaken. It will be seen from previous reports that there are about 270 manholes in the area and about half of these have never been and are unlikely to become infested by rats. The remaining half are frequently infested, but with test baiting only a proportion of all manholes are covered. It would, therefore, be possible for some manholes to miss treatment for several years, during which time they could become seriously infested.

As in previous years, the only locality where sewers are badly infested is Cherry Tree. This is, no doubt, caused by old sewers, the proximity of the canal and industrial establishments. The banks of the Leeds and Liverpool canal had again become infested, but because of labour shortage it was not possible to carry out a treatment.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

17 licences were renewed during the year for individual caravans, although there are still quite a number of hutments in the area which are not yet licensed. These huts have, in most cases, been in the area for 20 years or more.

There are 2 licensed camping sites in the area providing accommodation for a total of 50 caravans. Site standards have been adopted by the Council requiring the provision of proper drainage, water supply and other communal facilities.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT SCHOOLS.

There are 12 schools in the area and 11 of these have a piped supply of water. At 3 schools the sanitary accommodation comprises pail closets, 1 school has trough closets and 8 schools have water closets. Of the 8 schools with water closets, 3 can only be flushed by the Caretakers from water storage tanks. The school Managers have been asked to provide modern sanitation, but in only one case was there any progress during the year. In the case of Langho school, where trough closets are in use, repeated requests for improvements have been made since 1949 - almost without exception the children at this school have proper water closets at their homes.

There is a real need for the improvement of sanitary conveniences and washing facilities at most schools in the area. It is essential that this accommodation should be as near perfection as possible, as it is during school life that a child can be trained and guided in the forming of good habits.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There are 12 factory chimneys in the area and in 6 cases smoke observations were taken, none of these showed excessive emissions. For several years smoke emissions have been excessive, but the nuisances created during 1953/4, have not been so flagrant. There has been some improvement in the fuel supplied to the factories and a number of mills are in the process of converting to individual electric motors.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

16 samples of milk were taken from retailers in the area and in only 2 cases were the results unsatisfactory. 14 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination to detect tuberculosis and all were reported negative.

Ice-Cream.

There are 35 retailers premises on the Council's register and during the year the licence of 1 retailer was revoked, because the holder was serving petrol at the same time as ice-cream, without using the washing facilities available. 7 samples of ice-cream were taken from retailers and of these, 2 were unsatisfactory.

Meat Inspection.

There are 100% inspections of all animals slaughtered in the area. Most of these were killed at a licensed Slaughterhouse which is attached to the farm buildings of an Institution within the District.

Other Food Preparing Premises.

Priority of inspections has always been given to the preparation and handling of meat, ice-cream and milk, although few inspections could be made to restaurant kitchens, way-side cafes and other food premises. The Council have adopted Byelaws to secure 'sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food' and these Byelaws came into force in 1950.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING
THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY
AND OTHER WORK.

Inspections under the Public Health Act	312
Inspections under the Housing Act	112
Inspections and re-visits to Moveable Dwellings	53
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	39
Rooms Disinfected	37
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Sampling	19
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	50
Inspections of Meat Shops	12
Inspections of Bakehouses	19
Inspections of Provisions Shops	13
Inspections of Fried Fish Shops	2
Inspections of Ice-Cream Premises	28
Inspections of Restaurant Kitchens	29
Inspections of Licensed Premises	11
Inspections of Factories (other than Bakehouses)	32
Inspections of Schools	12
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes	1681
Inspections of Drains	230
Inspections in connection with Water Supplies	48
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	13
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	17
Inspections in connection with Rodent Control	196
Smoke Observations	6
Other Visits interviewing Owners, etc.	213
Total	3184

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1	36	41	114	15
Number inspected	1	36	41	114	15

All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	3	3	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	56	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	100%	5.5%	7.3%	51.7%	6.6%

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	29	-	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	80.5%	-	-	20%

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	117
Number of inspections made for the purpose	190
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932	67
Number of inspections made for the purpose	112
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	31
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	61

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	45
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Action of statutory powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owner	-
(b) By local authority in default of owners	-

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owner	-
(b) By local authority in default of owners	-

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	6
(2) Number of Closing Orders determined	-

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding:-

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	-
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	-
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	-
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	-

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The survey of working-class dwellings was completed in 1948 and the following are the completed figures for the survey:-

No. of inhabited houses (all classes)	3509	
at 31st December, 1947		
No. of working-class houses	2673	
		% of total inspected
No. of working-class houses:-		
1. fit in all respects	295	11.04
2. requiring minor repairs	847	31.69
3. requiring structural alterations	737	27.57
4. occupied by agricultural workers and requiring structural alterations	343	12.83
5. unfit for habitation	451	16.87
No. of working-class houses about which free circulation of air is retarded		462
No. with inadequate through or cross ventilation		77
No. which are badly lighted		777
No. with insufficient height in the rooms		443
No. not connected to a Public sewer		834
No. not having a fresh water closet		807
No. without sufficient washing accommodation		673
No. without sufficient cooking accommodation		109
No. without an adequate pantry		1712
No. with insanitary or defective sink		286
No. not having a Public water supply laid on		505
No. not having a piped supply of hot water		1061
No. not having a fixed bath		1357
No. being in an unsatisfactory state of repair		842
No. showing dampness within the house		1485
No. not having an adequate system of artificial lighting		259
No. not having separate access from staircase or landing for each bedroom		304
No. of overcrowded houses (total, years 1945-1948)		25

WATER SUPPLIES.

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies	
	Direct to houses		By means of standpipe		e.g. wells, springs etc.	
	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population
1. Balderstone	81	243	-	-	34	102
2. Billington	644	3967	-	-	90	270
3. Clayton-le-Dale	179	507	-	-	21	63
4. Dinckley	22	66	-	-	4	12
5. Eccleshill	123	329	-	-	9	27
6. Livesey	802	2336	-	-	94	282
7. Mellor	374	1152	4	14	57	171
8. Osbaldeston	49	147	-	-	10	30
9. Pleasington	123	369	-	-	53	159
10. Ramsgreave	235	705	-	-	41	123
11. Salesbury	110	330	-	-	9	27
12. Tockholes	-	-	-	-	140	420
13. Wilpshire	351	1203	-	-	29	87
14. Yate & Pickup Bank	30	90	-	-	83	249
Total - Whole District	3123	11444	4	14	674	2022

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN THE DISTRICT.

Privy Middens	Nil
Pail Closets	528
Ashpits	Nil
No. of Houses with Fresh Water Closets	3309
No. of Houses with Waste Water Closets	65
No. of Houses with Moveable Ashbins	3474
Pail Closets converted into Fresh Water Closets	27

RODENT CONTROL.

Sewer Maintenance Treatments.

First Half Year.

(Zinc Phosphide and Sausage Rusk).

18 manholes baited.

8 manholes showing prebait take.

4 manholes showing complete take.

Second Half Year.

Owing to the shortage of labour, it was not possible to carry out a second treatment of the sewers during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Report for the Year ending 31st March, 1955.

	Local Authority Properties.	Dwelling- Houses.	Agricul- tural Premises.	Business Premises.	Totals
No. of properties in District	18	3449	352	236	4055
No. of properties inspected					
(a) As a result of complaint	1	24	2	2	29
(b) Routine inspections	9	4	4	8	25
No. found infested by rats					
(a) Major infestation	2	-	3	5	10
(b) Minor infestation	7	16	1	1	25
No. found seriously infested by mice	1	12	-	4	17
No. of infested premises treated by Council	10	28	4	10	52

Public Cleansing.

The following figures summarise the amount of refuse collected by direct labour and contractors during the year:-

<u>Visits to Premises.</u>	<u>Pans Emptied.</u>	<u>Bins Emptied.</u>	<u>Loads.</u>	<u>T. C. Q. Estimated.</u>
180,628	33,765	146,863	1,823	4,331 11 -

Salvage.

The following weights of salvaged materials were collected and sold during the year:-

<u>Material.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>				<u>Value.</u>		
	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Paper	115	12	-	-	985	9	11
Kitchen Waste	53	14	-	-	229	10	6
Textiles	5	18	1	20	128	16	6
Copper	-	2	3	27	14	6	2
Scrap Iron	90	17	2	-	350	17	3
Brass and Zinc	-	3	3	19	11	9	9
Aluminium	-	4	1	11	13	3	9
Lead	-	4	2	25	15	12	4
Bottles and Jars	-	2	2	8	-	16	-
Carriage on Paper					48	3	1
Carriage on Kitchen Waste					22	14	3
<hr/>							
Total	267	-	1	26	1,820	19	6
Profit on Dustbins for the year					14	5	5
<hr/>							
	267	-	1	26	1,835	4	11
<hr/> <hr/>							

TONNAGE AND REVENUE FROM SALVAGE COLLECTED BY
BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

SALVAGE	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Waste Paper	47	51	50	59	72	86	108	90	115	116
Kitchen Waste	44	46	56	58	59	56	58	53	49	53
Rags	7	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	4	4	8	6	6	6
Non-Ferrous Metals	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
Scrap Iron	-	5	2	3	-	-	39	51	70	91
Jam Jars	3	3	3	4	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	3	1	-
TOTALS	101 $\frac{1}{4}$	111 $\frac{1}{4}$	115 $\frac{3}{4}$	128 $\frac{1}{4}$	135 $\frac{1}{4}$	149	217 $\frac{1}{2}$	203 $\frac{1}{2}$	241 $\frac{1}{2}$	267
REVENUE	£536	£632	£652	£705	£745	£950	£2,600	£1,717	£1,508	£1,821

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BLACKBURN IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.-INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	6	9	3	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	38	42	5	-	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	3	-	-	3
TOTAL		47	54	8	-	

2.-CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No.of cases in which prosecu- tions were ins- tituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspec- tor (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	5	5	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	1	1	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	3	3	-	1	-	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2	-	2	-	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	1	-	1	-	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
TOTAL	60	12	12	-	4	-	60

